

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 1-5 are pending. Claims 1 and 4 are independent and are amended.

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim for Priority

The Examiner has acknowledged Applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to on the grounds that they do not depict the connecting pins and inserting holes through which the connecting pins are inserted. Attached are proposed changes to FIG. 6, showing the connecting pins and inserting holes through which the connecting pins are inserted, together with a revised formal drawing for FIG. 6 incorporating the proposed changes. Withdrawal of the drawing objection and approval of the proposed changes are, therefore, respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that the formal drawings comply with

USPTO requirements, and the Examiner is requested to provide a Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, Form PTO-948, indicating whether the formal drawings have been approved by the Official Draftsperson, with the next official communication.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1 and 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,581,130 to Boucheron in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,539,253 to Nagaune. Claim 2 is rejected as being unpatentable over Boucheron and Nagaune in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,375,040 to Cooper et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the rejections, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, claim 1 is amended to recite one system module for an electric/electronic appliance, having a combination of elements including a plurality of power pins and signal pins disposed adjacent to each of three edges on a surface of the case in a manner such that substantially a U-shaped arrangement is obtained along the three edges.

Claim 4 is amended to recite a system module for an electric appliance having a combination of elements, including a plurality of power pins and signal pins disposed adjacent to

each of three edges of the case and extending through a surface of the case such that the power pins and signal pins are in a substantially U-shape along the three edges.

It is respectfully submitted that the combination of elements set forth in independent claims 1 and 4 are not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Boucheron and Nagaune et al.

As admitted on page 3 of the Office Action, Boucheron fails to teach or suggest power pins and signal pins disposed adjacent to the edges on a surface of a case in a manner such that substantially a U-shaped arrangement is obtained. The Office Action relies on Nagaune for this teaching. Nagaune discloses two upper electrodes 30 and a single terminal 31 which extend outwardly through holes provided in an upper wall 22a of casing 22, as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2. The upper electrodes 30 and output terminal 31 are disposed away from the edge and apparently near the center of the casing 22.

Nagaune fails to teach or suggest a plurality of power pins and signal pins disposed adjacent to each of three edges on a surface of the case in a manner such that substantially a U-shaped arrangement is obtained along the three edges, a power board located inside the case and electrically connected with

the power pins, and a signal board located inside the case and electrically connected with the signal pins, as recited in presently amended claim 1.

Nagaune also fails to teach or suggest a plurality of power pins and signal pins disposed adjacent to each of three edges of the case and extending through a surface of the case such that the power pins and signal pins are in a substantially U-shape along the three edges, as recited in presently amended claim 4.

In rejecting claim 2, the Office Action relies on Cooper for a teaching of a modular electronic unit having two among four corner portions of a case through which the case and a heat sink are coupled to each other. However, Cooper et al. fails to teach or suggest the above-cited limitations of claims 1 and 4 and, therefore, fails to cure the deficiencies of Boucheron and Nagaune.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 4 patentably distinguish over the cited art, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are requested. Since the remaining claims depend directly or indirectly from allowable independent claims, they should also be allowable for at least the reasons set forth above, as well as for the additional limitations provided by

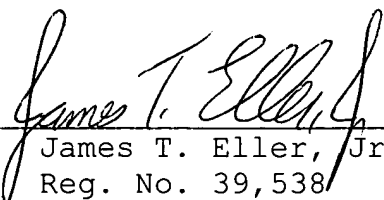
these claims. Therefore, all claims should be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated ground of rejection has been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance. However, if there are any outstanding issues, the Examiner is invited to telephone Sam Bhattacharya, Reg. No. 48,107, at (703) 205-8000 in an effort to expedite prosecution.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,
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MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS 1 AND 4

1. (Amended) One system module for an electric/electronic appliance, comprising:

a case constituting a body of the one system module;

a plurality of power pins and signal pins disposed adjacent to each of three edges on a surface of the case in a manner such that substantially a U-shaped arrangement is obtained along the three edges;

a power board located inside the case and electrically connected with the power pins; and

a signal board located inside the case and electrically connected with the signal pins.

4. (Amended) A system module for an electric appliance, the module comprising:

a case constituting a body of the module; and

a plurality of power pins and signal pins disposed adjacent to each of three edges of the case and extending through a surface of the case such that the power pins and signal pins are in a substantially U-shape along the three edges.